

Annual Narrative Report  
Calendar Year 2006

THACHER ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Rockport, Massachusetts

Thacher Island National Wildlife Refuge consists of 22 acres of rock, grass, and shrubs. The Refuge is located on the northern end of Thacher Island, which is located approximately one mile off the town of Rockport, Massachusetts. The island includes two 100 foot lighthouses, both of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings and one, the north tower, is located on the Refuge. Title to the area was transferred to the Fish and Wildlife Service from the U.S. Coast Guard in 1972.

The Service has a MOU with the Town of Rockport and the Thacher Island Association for conducting maintenance and visitor related activities on the Refuge portion of the Island. An estimated 1,500 visitors were reported during the brief period the Refuge is open for visitors, June-September.

Refuge staff made two visits to Thacher Island during the summer, each time catching a ride with the Thacher Island Association's Wednesday work crews. The purpose of the two visits was to conduct gull control to eventually re-establish a tern colony on the island. In the 1950's a colony of over 1500 pairs was documented, however greater black-backed and herring gull populations took over the island as they increased in numbers.

Botanical baseline data for the island was also added to with several new plant species added to the list.

RM Taylor attended several of the monthly Thacher Island Town Committee and Thacher Island Association meetings after arriving in June.

A contract awarded to International Chimney in New York for repairs to the North Tower was awarded for the amount of \$32,000. Work to be completed includes replacing several porthole windows, close the space between the inside and outside layers of the roof above the light chamber, and replacing light fixtures in locations where leaking has occurred.

The galley door needs replacing but will have to be fabricated and will require additional funding in FY 07.